



**Minutes of MERYC UK
Meeting 29th September 2011
Wigmore Hall**

Present: Linda Bance, Margareta Burrell, Ali Harmer, Emma Hutchinson, Jane Parker, Jessica Pitt, Alison Street.

Apologies: Maureen Brookson, Nancy Evans, Lucinda Geoghegan, Karen McKenzie, Trish Power and Susan Young

1. Minutes of last meeting were agreed.
2. Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting
- 2.1 2 new aims have been agreed for MERYC UK 'Aims and Objectives' statement which differentiate aims from objectives and activities. These now read:

The UK network holds Aims and Objectives that integrates with MERYC EuNet.

MERYC UK is entitled a network (rather than a committee or board). Without membership restrictions this allows for flexibility, and is a UK affiliation. The aim of MERYC UK is to provide a network for people to share interests in music education and research in relation to young children throughout the UK.

Aims of MERYC UK

1. To pursue inquiry into Early Childhood Music Education through research and critical reflection on practice
2. To promote and articulate high quality inclusive practice and musicianship in practice

To achieve these aims, the following objectives guide our activities:

1. Hold three meetings per year to
 - Share topics of current interest
 - Reflect on implications for practice and research
 - Discuss representation and contribution to national, European and international Music Education conferences
 - Explore and share opportunities for continuing professional development
2. Foster collaboration between educators and researchers in Music Education practice with young children, that is mutually supportive between researchers and practitioners
3. Conduct music education and research that recognises the cultural and social diversity of early childhood and childrearing practices in families in the UK through
 - Liaising and sharing with other networks to promote principled, inclusive and musical practice
 - Disseminating ideas for good quality practice and inquiry, e.g. through networks, articles and in practitioner publications
 - Contributing to regional and national policy and review of music provision for young children
4. A set of principles that reflect expectations of high standards and good educational practice. Young children have the right to musical experiences which:
 - Are the highest possible quality
 - Are developmentally appropriate
 - Are child-centred and in the child's time
 - Are progressive

- Value and respect cultural diversity
- Encourage inclusive participation
- Recognise a child's relationship with key people
- Fun and engaging

5. MERYC-UK Conference 28th April 2012

5.1 A small group will drive the admin/organisation of the conference forward; Alison, Jess, Linda and Ali

5.2 Keynote speakers: Dr Susan Young and Prof. Minna Huotilainen

5.3 Timing of the day was discussed 9.30-16.00 with:
2 keynotes 1 hour each
3 Workshops - Theory-Practice 1 hour each (to be finalised)
6 Presentation slots 1/2 hour each (to be finalised)

5.4 SEMPRES offer to sponsor students.

5.5 Nursery World will attend, advertise the event and write an article. TES approached to send journalist. Puppets by Post will have stand, LMS will have stall

5.6 Books need to be organised. RoutledgeFalmer.

5.7 Linda offered for Mary to come as volunteer - Max. capacity is 150 delegates if oversubscribed may be problematic to have volunteers.

5.8 The publicity flier will be sent to the Meryc-UK members who will then circulate widely to their contacts. The conference team will send out publicity to:

Early arts, PRESMA, Music Leader, PLA, Childminders Association, Sound Connections, Sound Lincs, NAME, Musicteacher net

6. MERYC response to the Consultation on a Revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). We agreed to individually respond to the portions relevant to early years music citing "MERYC UK" in the "Organisation" box.

6.1 Our response centres on 5 aspects: Music as a process that progresses rather than discrete area of development. Music should thread through the entire EYFS via playfulness and communicative musicality. We advise emphasis on the child "being" rather than "becoming". We note a lack of awareness and respect for other cultures. We welcome a form of quality "Kitemark" for music practitioners, possibly enforced by Ofsted. These points were emphasised to Ben Sandbrook who consulted MERYC members on the document.

7. Youth Music – Ben Sandbrook, Youth Music Development Manager present. Apologies from Carol Reid.

7.1 Youth Music will do less developmental work in the future. Instead, they will focus on "Spotlighting" effective practice, enabling its documentation, evaluation and dissemination. It aims to curate less and empower more.

7.2 Youth Music is consulting with The Early Years Round Table – Dr Susan Young, CCE, Early Arts, Sage Gateshead, CLA and others and invites MERYC to be part of a strategic development group with a remit for disseminating good early years music practice.

7.3 Ben introduced the Youth Music Early Years Music-Making Ingredients working document we discussed its strengths, deficiencies and potential. It was agreed that there is a need for a document that clarifies the theoretical underpinning of this paper.

8. Publications: Margareta promoted the Music Therapy Book published by OUP in which she has a chapter. Linda is completing her book for Routledge.

9. CPD opportunities:

- 9.1 Look at Music Leader website for info on spotlighted organisation running conference on music and inclusivity at St John's University on Nov 5th in York.
- 9.2 Contact Margareta about Stepping Into Music Taster days.
10. There was no AOB
11. Next Meeting 2nd Feb 2012 at 12.00 noon at The Music House for Children 306 - 310 Uxbridge Road, Shepherd's Bush, London, W12 7LJ: A guest will be invited subject to approval. This meeting will be based on reflections on practice – led by Linda, Jane and Jess

September 2011